



# EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

## American Citizen Newsletter

May 2015

### Planning for a Crisis

*Will you be ready when the next crisis hits? Whether you live in Burkina Faso or only plan to visit here, follow these tips to be well prepared.*

**Update your status:** With social media, there's no excuse for not letting mom know you're safe. If a crisis hits, update your social media status to broadcast that you're safe. As soon as you're able, call a family member or friend to say that you're OK.

**Make yourself reachable:** Make sure that your family in the U.S. knows how to reach you in a crisis. If you have more than one phone number, make sure they have each one. If you have other friends in Burkina Faso, give their contact info to your stateside family as well.



**Know how to reach the embassy:** The embassy's main phone line (+226 25-49-53-00) is answered 24 hours per day. Save it in your contacts if you need immediate help. Otherwise, in an emergency the embassy will proactively share updates and guidance to U.S. citizens registered with STEP. We'll do the same on social media.

**Know where to get information:** While the embassy will provide emergency guidance in a crisis, we should not be your source for breaking news. Identify local news sources that you trust and report regularly. Keep a battery-powered radio. If internet and phone access goes out, we will use Voice of America and RFI for broadcasting emergency messages to U.S. citizens.

**Have an emergency plan:** If you grew up in earthquake, hurricane, or blizzard territory in the U.S., you probably know a bit about preparing for "the big one." The same rules apply. Have an emergency water source. Keep a supply of non-perishable food. Keep your phone charged. Whether you're visiting or call Burkina Faso home, it's always important to maintain a supply of extra cash.

**Be ready to leave:** Everyone has a varying level of tolerance when a crisis hits. Some people will be ready to bunker down. Others may want to leave immediately. If you decide it's time to leave, make sure that your passport has at least six months of remaining validity. If your first destination will be somewhere other than the United States, ensure that you have valid visas. The six countries surrounding Burkina Faso all require visas for U.S. citizens.

### Provided Services

The Consular Section provides the following routine services for U.S. citizens in Burkina Faso:

- Passport application and renewal
- Notarial services
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad
- Consular Reports of Death Abroad

*To schedule a non-emergency service, contact the Consular Section to schedule an appointment.*

### Hours

#### Consular Section

Monday to Thursday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Friday, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm

#### Non-Emergency Citizen Services

Monday and Thursday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm,  
by appointment

#### Phone Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
Friday, 10:00am to 12:00pm

*Embassy Ouagadougou is closed during U.S. and Burkina Faso holidays.*

### Upcoming Dates

**May 2:** International Labor Day (Burkina Faso)

**May 5:** Ascension Day (Burkina Faso)

**May 30:** Memorial Day (U.S.)

**July 4:** Independence Day (U.S.)

**July 6 (TBD):** Aid-Al Fitr/Ramadan (Burkina Faso)

**August 5:** Independence Day (Burkina Faso)